

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are being prosecuted in this application. Claims 3 and 5 have been withdrawn as being a non-elected invention.

Claims 1 and 4 are amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. It is believed that this response is fully responsive to the present Office Action.

Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bleich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,877,645). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Bleich shows an apparatus for coloring an electric wire that has a plurality of coloring nozzles (46, 46 and 50, 50) spouting a liquid coloring agent onto an electric wire so as to allow a liquid drop of coloring agent to adhere to the wire. It is also alleged that each coloring nozzle (46 and 50) includes a receiver (44 and 52) for a liquid coloring agent and a nozzle member (body of nozzle 46, 50) that communicates with the receiver, with the length of a respective nozzle member (46, 50) of a plurality of nozzle members being different from one another and the nozzles 46 apply a pattern in a single plane while the nozzles 50 apply a cone-shaped spray.

It is respectfully submitted that the present apparatus, as presently claimed, discharges or spouts

a liquid coloring agent as a liquid drop, not as a spray in planar or conical shape as does the Bleich reference.

Additionally, in the Office Action , coloring nozzles 46 and 50 are alleged to include a receiver 44 and 52 and a nozzle member (body of nozzle 46, 50). The items 44 and 52 are defined by Bleich as being tubular support members and the nozzles 46 and 50 are attached to the support members. In the present apparatus, the coloring nozzle has a nozzle body with a receiver for coloring agent and a valve therein. Bleich does not disclose or suggest such a valve.

In the above amendments to Claims 1 and 4, the above-discussed liquid drop of a coloring agent, and coloring nozzle having a nozzle body having a valve are added in Claims 1 and 4. Support for the amendments is found at page 16, lines 5-10, and page 16, lines 18-23.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as presently claimed is distinct and non-obvious in view of Bleich. In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 1, 2 and 4 are patentable and are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1, 2 and 4 is respectfully requested.

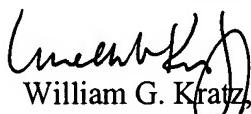
If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

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In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit  
Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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